GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2027
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016
Collaboration for Mars Exploration
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have agreed to cooperate on future exploration of the Red Planet;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether any charter has been signed between NASA and ISRO on Mars Working Group for cooperation between the two countries in this regard;
(d) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
(e) the time by which the work on the joint project is likely to start?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PG & PENSIONS AND IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)&(b) ISRO-NASA Mars Working Group (INMWG) has been formed, under the US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group. Under INMWG, ISRO and NASA are having discussions on the possibility of co-operations in Mars Science and exploration.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) The Charter for the ISRO-NASA Mars Working Group was signed during September 2014. This group will seek to identify, define and implement those scientific, programmatic, and technological goals that ISRO and NASA have in common in regard to the exploration of Mars. This working group will explore possibilities for enhanced cooperation between the two countries in the exploration of Mars.

(e) No action plan is yet in place.

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